



ADEPT

Alcohol and Drug Education and Prevention Team
County of Orange Health Care Agency

YOUTH AND DRUG USE

In the past year, one-fourth of middle school teachers and one-third of high school teachers have reported a student for using **illegal drugs**. CASA, National Survey of Teens, their Parents, Teachers, & Principals, 1997.

First use of **alcohol** typically begins around the age of 13; **marijuana** around 14. NI DA, Drug Use Among Racial/Ethnic Minorities, 1995, p.31.

In 1998, 17% of the nation's eighth graders; 31% of tenth graders; and 38% of twelfth graders had used **marijuana** that year. Johnston, et al. National survey Results on Drug Use from the Monitoring the Future Study. NI DA, 1999.

More than 1 in 20 twelfth graders in 1998 were current daily marijuana users, far below the 1 in 10 rate in 1978. Ibid.

In addition, almost 14% of the nation's 8th graders, 24% of 10th graders, and 31% of 12th graders have had 5 or more **alcoholic drinks** in the last 2 weeks. Ibid.

Young people (under 21) illegally consume almost 3.6 billion **alcoholic drinks** annually, or 10 million drinks a day. US Public Health Service. *Healthy People 2000: National Health Promotion and Disease prevention Objectives*, US Department of Health and Human Services, Washington, DC.

Nineteen percent of 8th graders, approximately 28% of 10th graders, and 35% of 12th graders have used **cigarettes** in the last month. More than 1 in 10 twelfth graders smoke a half a pack of cigarettes or more a day. Johnston, et al. National survey Results on Drug Use from the Monitoring the Future Study. NI DA, 1999.

In the last 30 days, 12% of the nation's 8th graders, 21.5% of 10th graders, and 25.6% of 12th graders have used an **illicit drug**. Ibid.

Nearly 21% of 8th graders, 18% of 10th graders, and 15% of 12th graders have tried **inhalants**. This is the only drug which the younger students have a higher lifetime rate of use than the older students. Ibid.

Nineteen percent of gang members reported **cocaine** use compared to 2 percent among youth who were not in gangs. Office of Drug Control and Policy, 1999.

Between 1990 and 1996, **heroin** use among high school seniors had doubled. Journal of Pediatrics, December 1997.

In 1994, **methamphetamine** use among youth rose sharply in rural areas; 15 percent of rural sophomores have tried stimulants such as methamphetamine - a rate 50 percent higher than their urban peers (9.9 percent) and 30 percent higher than their counterparts in small cities (11.5 percent). NI DA National Household Survey on Drug Abuse, 1997.